

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal having a ~~high~~higher byte rate than the STM-256/OC-768 data signal, the method comprising the steps of:

dividing the data signal byte by byte into four concatenated subsignals by removing unused bytes of overhead and frame alignment bytes;

forming modified STM-64/OC-192 pulse frames, which have a reduced number of frame alignment bytes;

inserting the subsignals into the modified pulse frames;

inserting a corresponding number of bytes of, in each case, one of the subsignals into each modified pulse frame instead of the frame alignment bytes no longer transmitted;

inserting remaining bytes of the respective subsignal into unused time slots of an overhead and a payload of the modified pulse frame;

transmitting the subsignals; and

combining the subsignals again at a receiving end to form an STM-256/OC-768 data signal at the receiving end.

Claim 2. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, in the overhead of the modified pulse frame, a maximum of 384 bytes are not available for transmitting data of one of the subsignals.

Claim 3. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 1, wherein, apart from the frame alignment bytes, the modified pulse frames contain a further eight overhead bytes.

Claim 4. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

removing all unused 1536 bytes of the data of the data signal;
reducing the number of frame alignment bytes of the modified pulse frames by at least eight bytes; and
transmitting the data of one subsignal, instead of the at least eight bytes, beginning with the 1537th byte of the data signal.

Claim 5. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the modified pulse frames are provided with numbering.

Claim 6. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a superframe is formed with an integral multiple of four modified pulse frames.

Claim 7. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the numbering is transmitted in a C byte of each modified pulse frame.

Claim 8. (original): A method for transmitting an STM-256/OC-768 data signal as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a marking of a beginning of the superframe is transmitted in a C byte of each modified pulse frame.